

company said, ‘Ma’am, this is a flood event, and therefore, I’m not going to cover it, cover your house?’ ” I said, “I wouldn’t like it a bit.” She said, “Well, that’s just what happened to me today.” She had come back from where she had evacuated to, to hear that message. And she asked my opinion, and I said, “I’ll find out the process that determines whether or not it’s a wind or water event.”

***President’s Focus on Domestic and Foreign Policy***

**Q.** One more question. With all your focus on foreign policy the next couple of days, what—have you put in place to keep your—

**The President.** I can do more than one thing at one time. That’s what—I hope you—by the time I’m finished President, I hope you’ll realize that the Government can do more than one thing at one time, and individuals in the Government can. And so I’ll be in constant touch with—I have a hurricane recovery briefing every morning, for example. I’ll be in touch with Mike Chertoff. Andy Card, on my staff, will be in touch with the appropriate people. And so if I’m focusing on the hurricane, I’ve got the capacity to focus on foreign policy, and vice versa. But I thank you for asking that question.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:06 p.m. at Twenty-Eighth Street Elementary School. In his remarks, he referred to Glen East, superintendent, Gulfport School District. Phyllis A. Bourn, principal, Twenty-Eighth Street Elementary School; Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi; Representative Gene Taylor of Mississippi; and Mayor Brett Warr of Gulfport, MS, participated in the exchange. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Statement on the Electoral Victory of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in Japan’s General Elections**

*September 12, 2005*

I extend my congratulations to Prime Minister Koizumi for his decisive victory in yesterday’s elections and to the Japanese people for continuing Japan’s robust democratic tra-

dition. Prime Minister Koizumi is a bold leader and a good friend, and I look forward to continuing the close partnership between our two countries.

**Memorandum on Continuation of the Exercise of Certain Authorities Under the Trading With the Enemy Act**

*September 12, 2005*

Presidential Determination No. 2005–35

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Treasury*

*Subject:* Continuation of the Exercise of Certain Authorities under the Trading with the Enemy Act

Under section 101(b) of Public Law 95–223 (91 Stat. 1625; 50 U.S.C. App. 5(b) note), and a previous determination on September 10, 2004 (69 *Fed. Reg.* 55497), the exercise of certain authorities under the Trading with the Enemy Act is scheduled to terminate on September 14, 2005.

I hereby determine that the continuation for 1 year of the exercise of those authorities with respect to the applicable countries is in the national interest of the United States.

Therefore, pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 101(b) of Public Law 95–223, I continue for 1 year, until September 14, 2006, the exercise of those authorities with respect to countries affected by:

- (1) the Foreign Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 500;
- (2) the Transaction Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 505; and
- (3) the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 515.

The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 14, 2005]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 13, and

it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 15.

### **The President's News Conference With President Jalal Talabani of the Iraqi Transitional Government**

*September 13, 2005*

**President Bush.** Thank you all. It's an honor to welcome the first democratically elected President of Iraq to the White House.

**President Talabani.** Thank you.

**President Bush.** I'm proud to stand with a brave leader of the Iraqi people, a friend of the United States, and a testament to the power of human freedom.

Mr. President, thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your courage.

President Talabani has dedicated his life to the cause of liberty in Iraq. As a lawyer, a journalist, and a political leader in northern Iraq, he stood up to a brutal dictator, because he believes that every Iraqi deserves to be free. The dictator destroyed Kurdish villages, ordered poison gas attacks on a Kurdish city, and violently repressed other religious and ethnic groups. For President Talabani and his fellow citizens, the day Saddam was removed from power was a day of deliverance. And America will always be proud that we led the armies of liberation.

In the past 2 years, the Iraqi people have made their vision of their future clear. This past January, more than 8 million Iraqis defied the car bombers and the assassins and voted in free elections. It is an inspiring act of unity when 80 percent of the elected National Assembly chose the President, a member of Iraq's Kurdish minority, to lead the free nation.

In our meeting today, I congratulated the President on his election, and I thanked him for his leadership on Iraq's draft constitution. The draft constitution is an historic milestone. It protects fundamental freedoms, including religion, assembly, conscience, and expression. It calls for a federal system of government, which is essential to preserving the unity of a diverse nation like Iraq. It declares that all Iraqis are equal before the law,

without regard to gender, ethnicity, and religion.

The Iraqi people can be proud of the draft constitution, and when an election to ratify that constitution is held next month, they will have a chance to vote their conscience at the polls.

As the Iraqi people continue on the path to democracy, the enemies of freedom remain brutal and determined. The killers in Iraq are the followers of the same ideology as those who attacked America 4 years ago. Their vision is for an Iraq that looks like Afghanistan under the Taliban, a society where freedom is crushed, girls are denied schooling, and terrorists have a safe haven to plot attacks on America and other free people.

To impose their hateful vision, our enemies know they must drive America out of Iraq before the Iraqi people can secure their own freedom. They believe we will retreat in the face of violence, so they're committing acts of staggering brutality, murdering Iraqi children receiving candy or hospital workers treating the wounded. We have no doubt that our enemies will continue to kill. Yet we also know they cannot achieve their aims unless we lose our resolve.

Today, Mr. President, I pledge that we will not waver, and I appreciate your same pledge. Iraq will take its place among the world's democracies. The enemies of freedom will be defeated.

President Talabani and I discussed our strategy for the months ahead. America will stand with the Iraqi people as they move forward with the democratic process. We're seeing hopeful developments in places like Fallujah and Ramadi and Mosul, where Iraqis are registering to vote, many for the first time—well, obviously, for the first time.

At the same time, American troops will stay on the offensive, alongside Iraqi security forces, to hunt down our common enemies. At this hour, American and Iraqi forces are conducting joint operations to rout out terrorists and insurgents in Tall 'Afar. Our objective is to defeat the enemies of a free Iraq, and we're working to prepare more Iraqi forces to join the fight. As Iraqis stand up, Americans will stand down. And when the mission is complete, our troops will come home with the honor they have earned.